

# Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN NEWSLETTER UPDATE

*Newsletter No. 1*  
*June 1999*

### A Greeting from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

For many of us, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site holds a special place in our lives. Each year thousands of people visit the pastoral and forested farm where Carl Sandburg and his family lived from 1945-1967.

Since the park opened in 1974, our staff has been privileged to tell the many stories of Carl Sandburg -- his works, life, family, and significance as an American poet, writer, historian, biographer of Abraham Lincoln, and social activist. As we move into the 21st century, the National Park Service is initiating a major planning effort that will guide the future management of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. What should we be doing to ensure that the cultural and natural resources of the park are protected? What should we be doing to ensure that visitors continue to have a quality experience? What level and type of use are appropriate for the park? How can we work with our neighbors to address problems that affect the park and surrounding neighborhoods? Tell us your ideas on these and other questions. We invite and encourage you to participate in this planning process.

Our goal is to develop a plan that will protect the cultural and natural resources of the park, meet the needs of our visitors, and address the concerns of our neighbors. To achieve this, we will work closely with the Village of Flat Rock, Henderson County, other federal agencies, private landowners, interest groups, and the general public. The general management plan that will be produced from this 18-month planning effort will be used to guide Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site for the next 10-15 years.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you as together we plan the future of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

Sincerely,

*Connie Hudson Backlund*

Connie Hudson Backlund  
Superintendent  
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

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For additional information on the General Management Plan  
contact Park Headquarters at 828-693-4178  
website: [www.nps.gov/carl/gmp\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/carl/gmp_info.htm) e-mail: [connie\\_backlund@nps.gov](mailto:connie_backlund@nps.gov)

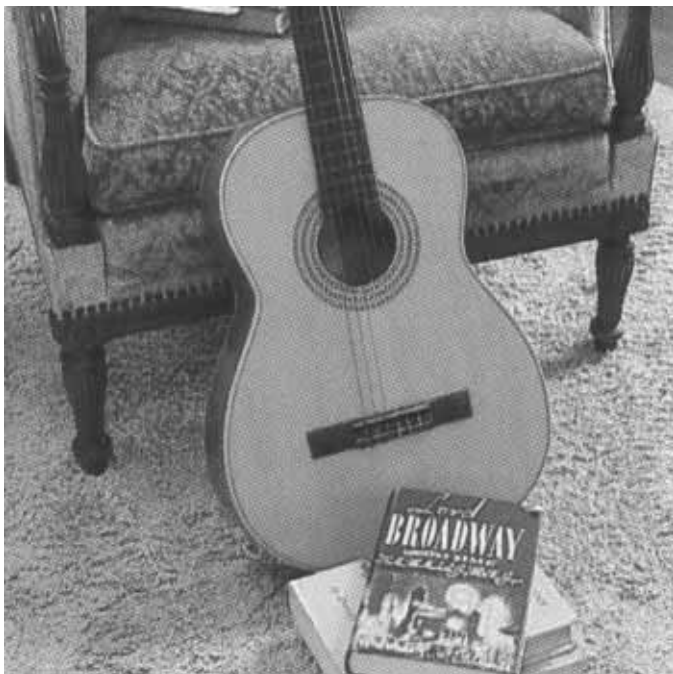
# Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

## ABOUT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

### What is a general management plan?

A general management plan (GMP) provides a vision for the future of a park and a practical framework for decision making. It provides guidance on how to best protect park resources, how to provide for quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. It involves identifying goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzing existing conditions and future possibilities, and determining the best course of action to accomplish these goals. The plan does not include facility design, resolve all issues, or guarantee funding for the park. Rather, GMPs describe the general path the National Park Service (NPS) intends to follow in managing sites such as Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site over a 10 to 15 year period.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the general management plan. The GMP and EIS will identify significant issues and concerns facing management of the park, present a reasonable range of management alternatives, and analyze the effects of the alternatives.



Public involvement is a key component in the preparation of the general management plan and environmental impact statement. This newsletter provides information on the planning process and how you can be involved in that process.

### What is general management planning?

Planning is a decision making process. General management planning constitutes the first phase of a tiered planning and decision making process used by the National Park Service to clarify and articulate the goals and objectives to be achieved at a park. Recommendations made in a general management plan are based on an analysis of existing and potential resource conditions and visitor experiences, environmental (including natural, cultural, and socio-economic) impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action.

The National Park Service strives to maintain an up-to-date GMP for each unit of the national park system. GMPs are developed in consultation with National Park Service program managers, interested parties, and the general public and focus on why the park was established and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time.

General management planning constitutes the broadest level of decision making at the park and, as suggested by its name, provides only general guidance about the best way to achieve the resource protection and visitor experience goals it recommends. Specific details regarding facility construction, interpretive program development, and maintenance technique are examined in much greater detail during subsequent implementation planning and design processes.

### How is the planning process conducted?

There are typically four steps in the general management planning process: "scoping" or information gathering; alternative development and analysis; preparation and publication of a draft general management plan/environmental impact statement; and revision and publication of a final general management plan/environmental impact statement.



# General Management Plan

**General Management Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Projected Timetable**

Step	Date	Public Involvement
1. Gather Information	Winter - Summer 1999	Newsletter, response form, public open house meetings
2. Develop and evaluate alternatives	Summer - Fall 1999	Newsletter, response form, public review, public meetings
3. Prepare and publish draft GMP/EIS	Fall 1999 - Winter 2000	Newsletter, response form, public review, public meetings
4. Revise and publish final GMP/EIS	Spring 2000	Newsletter, public distribution of final plan

The timetable shown above lists these steps as well as projected completion dates and opportunities for public involvement.

General management planning is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of park managers and technical experts who consult with other knowledgeable persons inside and outside the National Park Service and with the general public. As a first order of business, the planning team studies the legislation establishing the park, the body of laws and policies directing management of the national park system, park specific administrative commitments, and special mandates that affect how the park is managed. This is done to clarify the goals and objectives of the park that must be achieved because they are mandated by a higher authority. Goals and objectives mandated by a higher authority are collectively referred to as *musts* in general management planning.

Once these *musts* are clearly understood, the planning team will examine the parks mission, purpose, and significance statements to ensure that they adequately represent legislative intent, provide a sound foundation for decision-making at the park, and reflect the overall values of the general public. In

addition, the planning team will endeavor to identify, through a process called scoping, the range of optional goals and objectives that park staff, technical experts, current and potential visitors, other governmental agencies, traditional users, regional residents, and the general public want the park to achieve. The broad range of optional goals and objectives are collectively referred to as *wants* in general management planning.

As might be expected, some of the things that different people will want to happen at the park will be mutually compatible and others will not. The most appropriate mix of these wants will be determined using the best information available by a systematic analysis of resource values and land uses. Potential alternatives will be developed and their impacts rigorously explored. In reaching decisions concerning future management of park resources, planning teams seek, to the extent possible, to reach agreement among the park staff, the NPS leadership, other agencies with jurisdiction by law or expertise, and the public.

## Where are we now in the planning process?

We are now in step 1 of the planning process (scoping or information gathering). In this step you are invited to share ideas with the planning team in three ways:

- First, by letting us know about your ideas on the future management of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. You may forward your comments to us by mail, e-mail, and/or by completing and sending the response form included with this newsletter.
- Second, by attending one of three public open house meetings scheduled for June 22&24 where you will have an opportunity to express your ideas, questions, and concerns directly to the planning team. See the announcement



page of this newsletter for the specific locations, dates, and times of the June 22&24 meetings.

- Third, by providing your comments about the mission, purpose, and significance statements shown in this newsletter.

Public involvement is critical to the success of the general management plan. The planning team encourages all:

- existing and potential park visitors
- park neighbors
- people with traditional cultural ties to lands within the park
- park concessioners
- cooperating associations
- scientists and scholars
- other government agencies

to share their comments, suggestions, concerns, issues, expectations, or ideas regarding the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site general management plan.

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.

Several convenient ways to communicate and participate in the planning process are described in this newsletter. We encourage you to let us know what you think about Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site and look forward to hearing from you soon.



## Written Comments

Your written comments about the general management plan are welcome and can be forwarded via U.S. mail to:

Superintendent  
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site  
1928 Little River Road  
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731

We are pleased to accept your written comments in any form or format you wish to submit them. Handwritten responses on plain paper will be accepted as readily as computer generated responses printed on official letterhead.

You can help us better understand your interests and concerns by answering the questions on the general management plan response form. The response form is included in this newsletter and is also available at various locations throughout the park. The response form can also be downloaded from the general management plan information web site.

## Telephone Information

Persons interested in receiving more information about the general management process, the latest information on public meetings, or being placed on the newsletter mailing list are encouraged to call the park at 828-693-4178. The planning team strongly encourages persons with specific ideas and comments to submit those in writing so that we can better document and respond to those issues.

## Public Meetings

Several public meetings will be held over the course of the project. Meeting formats will vary from informal open house drop-ins to more formal public presentations.

Our first series of public meetings will be held June 22 in the Village of Flat Rock and June 24 in Hendersonville. The initial meetings will focus on introducing the general management planning process to the public and listening to what visitors have to say about the park.

The June 22&24 public meetings will be open-house format. At each meeting location, participants will have an opportunity to express their ideas, questions, and concerns in person by visiting one or all of several information stations staffed by planning team mem-

bers. Planning team members will be available to tell you about the general management plan process and listen to your comments and suggestions about the future management of the park. Since this is an informal meeting, there will not be a prepared presentation by the planning team. Information about specific locations, dates, and times for each meeting can be found on the meeting announcement page of this newsletter, at the Carl Sandburg Home NHS GMP information website ([www.nps.gov/carl/gmp\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/carl/gmp_info.htm)), or by calling the park at 828-693-4178.

### Newsletters

Several newsletters will be published over the course of the project to help people stay informed about public meetings, discussions, draft alternatives and other important information. Its easy to add your name to the mailing list for newsletters by providing your full mailing address to the park by telephone, U.S. mail, e-mail: [connie\\_backlund@nps.gov](mailto:connie_backlund@nps.gov), or in person the next time you are at the park.

### E-mail

Comments and questions about the general management plan can be submitted by e-mail to the planning team at e-mail address [connie\\_backlund@nps.gov](mailto:connie_backlund@nps.gov).

### Website

Point your web browser to the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site home page at [www.nps.gov/carl/gmp\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/carl/gmp_info.htm) for details about the general management plan process, public meetings, newsletters, and other on-line information. Downloadable copies of response forms, newsletters, draft plans, and the final plan will be available from the web site as they are completed.

## PARK MISSION

Each unit of the National Park Service system is provided guidance for how it is to be managed by the presidential proclamation or congressional legislation that authorizes and establishes that unit as a part of the NPS system. The presidential or congressional intent for a park unit is interpreted and expressed as the park's mission. The mission contains three kinds of statements: mission, purpose, and significance and these collectively provide the foundation for sound decision-making at the park. We invite you to review the following statements and let us know about any comments or concerns you may have regarding them.



# **Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site**

## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Public open house meetings will be held June 22 in the Village of Flat Rock and June 24 in Hendersonville. These initial meetings will focus on introducing the general management planning process to the public and learning about the concerns, issues, expectations, and values of existing and potential visitors, park neighbors, people with traditional cultural ties to the land, park concessioners, cooperating associations, other partners, scientists and scholars, and other governmental agencies.

The June 22&24 public meetings will be open house format. At each meeting location participants will have an opportunity to express their ideas, questions, and concerns directly to the planning team. Those attending the meetings will be encouraged to visit one or more information stations set up at the meeting site to learn more about the general management planning process and provide comments and suggestions about the park's mission and future management. This meeting is intended to be an informal information-sharing opportunity. A prepared presentation by the planning team will not be part of the program at this meeting.

### **Meeting dates, times, and locations**

#### **Tuesday, June 22 1999 -- two meeting sessions**

**Location:**

Village of Flat Rock: St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, located south of Hendersonville NC on US 25 (Greenville Highway) at the corner of Rutledge, Flat Rock NC.

**Time:**

2:00pm to 4:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Come at your leisure, open house meeting format

#### **Thursday, June 24 1999 -- one meeting session**

**Location:**

Hendersonville: Henderson County Public Library, 301 North Washington Street, Hendersonville NC.

**Time:**

3:00pm to 6:00pm. Come at your leisure, open house meeting format

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contact Park Headquarters at 828-693-4178**

**website: [www.nps.gov/carl/gmp\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/carl/gmp_info.htm) e-mail: [connie\\_backlund@nps.gov](mailto:connie_backlund@nps.gov)**





### **Mission Statement**

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is devoted to communicating the stories of Carl Sandburg -- his works, life and significance as an American poet, writer, historian, biographer of Abraham Lincoln and social activist. The Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is also dedicated to preserving Connemara, the farm where Sandburg and his family lived for the last 22 years of his life.

### **Purpose Statement**

The purpose of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is:

- to preserve Carl Sandburg's last home, a pastoral and forested farm where he and his family lived from 1945-1967
- to carry on the legacy of Carl Sandburg, his works and life for future generations through interpretation, education, and inspiration.

### **Significance Statements**

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is significant because:

- the site is where one of America's most versatile and recognized writers completed a literary career that told of the American experience -- its struggles and dreams. Sandburg captured America's epic traditions in his poetry, histories, biographies, novel and collection of folk songs.
- Sandburg relentlessly advocated social justice and his writings reflect a deep respect for the lives of individual human beings, particularly the exploited. The social issues we continue to grapple with today were the issues Sandburg brought to the forefront.
- Sandburg's "other voice" is more subdued, and reflects rural, small town life, and the rhythms of nature but still used the diction of the common person. The park's wooded hills and pastures, buildings, and the home's furnishings embody this memory of Carl Sandburg more vividly than any other place he lived.



## **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS**

**Times, dates, and locations**

**Tuesday, June 22, 1999 - two sessions**

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*See newsletter for additional meeting details*

Superintendent  
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site  
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